(b) During the last three years, 99 proposals involving diversion of forest land for construction of roads have been received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh. Out of these, 69 proposals have been approved, 8 cases have been closed for want of information, one case has been rejected on merit, 3 cases have been withdrawn by the State Government, additional information has been sought in respect of 11 proposals from the State Government, and 7 proposals are under examination.

(c) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is a regulatory Act and not prohibitory. The proposals for diversion of forest land received from the State Government are considered on the merit of the case and as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and rules and guidelines made thereunder. To ensure time bound disposal of such cases, a time limit of 60 days has been prescribed for the Central Government to take a decision under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Proposals under consideration under Forest Conservation Act in Chhattisgarh

†1654. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals from Chhattisgarh which are under Government's consideration under Forest Conservation Act, 1980;

(b) whether there is any time limit for taking the final decision on the proposals received, if so, the time limit;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal under consideration to lay down time limit; and

(d) by when the decision would be taken on the proposals received from Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) At present three number of proposals of Chhattisgarh are under consideration of the Ministry under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) As per the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003, a time limit of 60 days has been prescribed for the Central Government to take a decision on the complete proposals received from the State Government for diversion of forest land under forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposals for diversion of forest land are considered on the merit of the case, and in accordance with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and rules and guidelines made thereunder.

Environmental Clearance to Western Free-way Sea Link Project

1655. DR.P.C. ALEXANDER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stipulated a condition while granting environmental clearance to the Western Free-way Sea Link Project in Mumbai that there should be a permanent transfer of the Municipal Corporation land extending to 15.90 acres at Worli to the Naval Establishment;

(b) if so, why a condition unrelated to the Project has been included in the clearance; and

(c) whether the project will be given clearance deleting the condition so that this very important project designed for decongesting the existing chocked Western Road network can be carried out expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The said condition was stipulated in the light of the comments received from Ministry of Defence based on the agreement arrived at between Mumbai Municipal Corporation and Headquarters of Western Naval Command, Mumbai.

(c) No, Sir.

Draft Policy on Environment

1656. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed draft policy on environment has in its purview the problem of pollution specially that of noise, air and water pollution caused by industries located in residential areas in urban habitations;